

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

GET WHILE "GETTIN" IS GOOD

There seems to be a new motto in this country which is getting a good strong hold in the minds and ideals of the people. Possibly it sprang from that saying of David Harum, "When your 'Gittin' get enough."

Our forefathers had a good deal of faith in the motto "In God we trust," and as long as they continued that trust, they were fairly decent and reasonably honorable. Times have changed, and the younger generation don't seem to put much trust in God, but they do put a lot of trust in an automatic pistol, a sawed off shot gun, a jimmy and things of that nature.

Four boys of Bay City, all under twenty-one years of age, recently killed two prominent citizens and robbed the bank. Monday morning four Detroit youths shot three policemen and robbed a bond house of ten thousand dollars, because they were imbued with the idea of getting easy money. The thing uppermost in their minds was the new motto, "Get while the 'gittin' is good."

These occurrences are so common we scarcely notice them any more, and even joke about them.

We have read and heard so much about the graft and dishonesty in connection with the war that it nauseates one to think of it. Graft and dishonesty seem rampant on all sides, and a recent investigation in Washington has shown a shocking condition at the seat of government. Men in high places have had relatives on the payroll who did very little in return for the money they received, and it has raised a serious question as to the expenditure of that amount of money. This again brought to our minds the idea of David Harum's advice which seems to have crystallized into our new motto.

Shel Smith, an investigator, gives the following partial list of those who are reported to be getting easy money:

Representative William Kettner, of California, carries his wife, M. M. Kettner, on the clerk payroll at \$120 per month.

Representative James McAndrews, of Illinois, carries George J. McAndrews at \$136.67 per month.

Representative Isaac D. McPherson, of Missouri, overdoes it. He pays Joe F. McPherson \$220 per month and Jessie P. McPherson \$86.67.

Representative James H. Mays, of Utah, pays Arthur J. Mays \$154.34.

Representative Daniel F. Minahan, of New Jersey, pays Lina Minahan \$228.34 per month and Martha W. Minahan \$78.34 per month.

Representative James O'Connor, of Louisiana, certifies Florence O'Connor at \$186.67 and James O'Connor, Jr., at \$120 per month.

Representative James W. Overstreet, of Arkansas, pays Dicie N. Overstreet \$120 per month.

Representative L. P. Padgett, of Tennessee, pays his wife, Mrs. Ida Padgett, \$120 per month, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frances C. Padgett, \$186.67.

Representative Percy E. Quinn, of Mississippi, one of the Democratic watch dogs of the Treasury, gives his wife, A. B. Quinn, \$120 per month.

And so on through a long list bent on getting while the 'gettin' is good. Tammany wades in in approved Wigwam style. Representative David J. O'Connor pays M. H. Zinner \$186 per month and Frank Rizzo \$120 per month. "Neither," says the New York World, a Democratic paper, "has been seen in Washington since the member was inducted into office." Representative Daniel J. Riordan carries two men on the roll in the same way. Representative Thomas F. Smith, secretary of the "Hall," pays Charles J. Ackerson \$186.67 per month and he, too, has never been seen here.

This is a serious condition and the remedy lies in the training of our boys and girls. America will never be any more honest, any more truthful, any more clean, any more industrious, than the ideals of our citizens. It is the duty of every parent to know where his or her children are, with whom they are associating, what habits they are forming, what books they are reading, and what their ideals are. To do less than this for our children is to endanger the very foundations of our government, and is sure to continue and increase the dangerous tendency to "Get while the 'Gittin' is good." Every community and every home in the community must wake up to the danger that besets it.

GERMANY MUST PAY

At a recent meeting of the Council of the League of Nations a definite settlement was arrived at concerning the amount of indemnity to be demanded of Germany for damages inflicted by her upon the Allies during the late war. Germany is to be assessed \$56,000,000.00 to be paid during the next forty-two years.

It is interesting to note Germany's attitude is regard to this decision. She throws up her hands in holy horror and protests that it can't be done, that it is beyond all reason to expect it of her, that it is an utter impossibility. Now this attitude upon Germany's part is rather an interesting one. One might think that Germany might welcome such a chance to demonstrate to the world her efficiency which she has so long boasted of. She did not hesitate at all at the expense involved in the training and maintaining of her immense army, in gathering the gigantic stores of ammunition and other war necessities, in preparing her whole war program. She never seemed to think of the pay day coming when she ruthlessly instructed her soldiers to utterly lay waste to the land through which they passed in order to terrorize the world. That land and those orchards and those shade trees, cities, cathedrals, and homes, and that shipping which was ruthlessly and needlessly destroyed as a part of her war program did not belong to her and she did not expect to be obliged to pay for it. That part of the program did not fit in with her boasted slogan that "Might makes right."

Now "the shoe is on the other foot," as the old saying goes. But there is no escaping facts. That shipping, those cities, shade trees, orchards, cathedrals, and homes were utterly destroyed and thousands of acres of the fairest land of France and Belgium were utterly laid waste to satisfy German greed and German lust. Someone must pay the bill. And it certainly would seem to all fair-minded individuals that the one who had wantonly inflicted the injury should be the one to do so.

France, crippled as she is by the awful struggle through which she was forced to pass, has already collected and spent \$7,000,000,000 in reconstruction work. She should be re-imposed for this, and for other reconstruction work still necessary. Belgium has the same problem on her hands. The other allies all suffered many serious injuries in varying degrees.

And after all, what is \$56,000,000,000 as the price of the damage. The allies can rebuild their cities, replace their ships, grow more trees, restore waste land, and the \$56,000,000,000 will help to do it, but no one can pay for the wasted lives, the ruined homes, the paralyzed industries which exist and must exist for the next generation and even longer because the manpower of France, and Belgium, and England, and Italy, and of other countries has been so ruthlessly destroyed. That is a damage which all Europe must suffer for years to come and which cannot be paid for in any coin.

When Germany's own territory was threatened, Germany was ready to end the war. She did not care to have inflicted upon her, what she had inflicted upon some one else. She threw up her hands and quit. Now she is endeavoring to do the same thing when it comes to paying the bill. She prefers to use her means and her efficiency in preparing for another program similar to the old one, rather than in paying for the program which she has just finished, or rather which was finished for her in a very different way from the one she had expected. Germany gave no quarter during the war, she should ask for none now.

PLANS GROUPING OF DEPARTMENTS

GOVERNOR'S BILLS FOR THREE NEW DEPARTMENTS SENT TO LEGISLATORS.

INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL BILL

Several Bodies to Be Abolished By New Measures; University Budget Submitted.

Lansing.—Definite indication of a busy session of the fifty-first legislature is shown by the number of bills going into the legislative hopper.

Governor Groesbeck last week sent to the house and the senate, bills providing for the reorganization of three branches of the state government by creating a department of agriculture, department of conservation and another to be known as the industrial and labor department.

Departments Grouped.

Much interest is centered on the agricultural bill. It provides for a department of agriculture, in charge of a commissioner to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate. This department would take over the powers and carry out the duties of the present department of animal husbandry, the state food and drug commission, the state veterinary board, the immigration commission and the board of geological survey.

It would also take over the work of inspecting and regulating orchards, vineyards, nurseries, apiaries, seed testing, analysis of commercial fertilizers and stock foods.

Appointments of the heads of the different bureaus would be left to the commissioner of the department, subject to the approval of the administrative board which is created by the provisions of the first reform measure sent to the legislature by the Governor. All departments whose duties are absorbed by the proposed department of agriculture would cease to function by the end of next June.

State to Run Fair.

A very important provision of the Governor's plan for the creation of the department of agriculture, is the taking over of all lands and property for the holding of the state fair.

Arrangements for the holding of the annual fair would be placed in charge of a board of managers, consisting of 20 members appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the commissioner, who would serve as chairman of the board. Funds acquired from the proceeds of the fair would be turned over to a revolving fund to be used for the maintenance of the project. It is provided that after exceeding a certain amount to be set later, the excess would be turned over to the state's general fund.

Conservation Plan Revealed.

The measure creating the department of conservation transfers to the new body the work of the present public domain commission with the additional duties of the game, fish and forest fire departments, board of fish commissioners and the state park commission, all of which are abolished by the bill.

A commission of six members, appointed by the Governor, would control this department. The commission will name its director from its members.

No salaries are fixed in either the agriculture or conservation department plans, this detail of the bills being left to the legislative committees which will be asked to study and report on the measures. The former bill was introduced by Representative Atwood, Newaygo and the conservation bill was brought before the house by Representative Charles Brown, Flint.

Labor Bill Submitted.

Reorganization of the several departments and boards now functioning in the interests of labor and industry, is provided for in a department to be known as the industrial and labor department consisting of three members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

This bill would consolidate the industrial accident board, the state labor bureau and the industrial relations commission. Each member would devote his entire time to the department and receive a salary of \$5,000 a year. At least one of the members must be an attorney. The chairman of the department would be named by the Governor.

It is proposed that the measure when approved becomes effective immediately and that it take over all the business, law suits and other matters pending before any of the departments abolished.

Would Observe Birthday.

January 26 was the sixty-fourth anniversary of the admission of Michigan into statehood and Representative Warren B. Byrum, Ingham county, on that day introduced a bill calling for a fitting observance of the day each year in all the public schools of the state.

Representative Gowdy, Berrien, introduced a bill for payment of an annual salary not to exceed \$1,200 for township supervisors in townships having assessed valuation in excess of \$5,000,000. A bill sponsored by Representative Fred B. Wells, Cass county, would license pool rooms and soft drink places in the townships.

Salary Bill in Senate.

The judiciary committee of the senate, by a vote of 5 to 2, reported out and recommended passage of Senator Condon's bill asking an increase in salaries of supreme court justices from \$7,000 to \$12,000 a year.

Signatures of 20 per cent of the qualified voters to initiate petitions for constitutional amendments is provided for in a concurrent resolution

introduced in the house by Franklin Moore, St. Clair. The requirement is now 10 per cent. Mr. Moore believes that his measure would do away with much of the "crank legislation."

Governor Groesbeck is seriously considering introducing military training at the Michigan Industrial School for Boys and graduating two each year to West Point and Annapolis.

Appropriation Bills Appear.

The first of the biennial appropriation bills appeared in the senate late in the week, and were referred to the proper committees. The largest of those submitted was introduced by Senator Penny and calls for the University of Michigan appropriation of \$4,715,000 for 1921 and \$3,975,000 for 1922.

There are many bills now in committee of both houses on which legislative battles are foreseen. One is seen in the bill introduced by Senator Wood, Detroit, calling for the repeal of the presidential preference primary law, and another battle will result it is believed from the bill introduced by Senator Bryant, Monroe-Lenawee district, asking repeal of the state police.

The Wood bill is the second attempt to repeal the present primary law. One was introduced two years ago by Senator Tufts but did not get very far as most legislators were reluctant to tamper with it. Discussion has developed among the lawmakers of a general change in the primary in the way of a combination primary and convention system.

Wiest Named By Groesbeck.

Announcement was made last week of the appointment by Governor Groesbeck of Judge Howard H. Wiest, Lansing, for 20 years on the Ingham circuit bench, as justice of the state supreme court to succeed Justice Flavel L. Brooke, who passed away suddenly last week.

With the commission the Governor sent the following letter to the Judge: "Your appointment as a Justice of the Supreme Court means much more than the mere exercise of executive privilege."

"It is a belated recognition of the splendid service you have rendered the state—a service that has been actuated by a high conception of judicial responsibility and administered with a fearlessness that has won public approbation."

Judge Wiest will complete the unexpired term of Justice Brooke, and this means that his name will be up for nomination at the Republican convention at Detroit on February 17. Justices Joseph B. Moore and Joseph H. Steere will also be up for nomination at that time.

To Investigate Council.

A special committee has been appointed to investigate the Michigan Community Commission, appointed during the war to carry on patriotic and relief work. It was maintained by a quasi-public fund and is now left with a balance on hand of \$23,421.74.

Carroll E. Sweet, Grand Rapids, chairman of the commission, issued a statement to the legislature several days ago urging an investigation of the commission. The matter was brought before the senate by Senator Herbert Baker and Representative Charles Culver, both of Detroit, introduced it in the house.

Four of the five members of the joint committee to investigate the affairs of the Community commission have been announced. Senator Baker will be one of the two senate members and Speaker Fred L. Warner of the house announced his selections as Representatives Hunter, Miles and Hart.

Representative Aldrich believes that schools should hold their elections in July instead of September and has submitted an amendment to the school act to that effect. Representative Hunter would permit banks to invest half of their capital and surplus in buildings instead of only half their capital.

Asks Auto Tax Cut.

A measure has been introduced by Representative Robert B. MacDonald, Houghton, to cut down the amount of automobile tax for the counties lying north of Mason Lake, Oscoda, Clare, Gladwin and Arenac. Representative MacDonald contends that in this region automobiles are tied up for many months because of heavy snowfall, and that autoists should not be made to pay the full amount for a license unless they are able to use their cars. He mentions three-quarters the tax paid by the lower state counties as a fair charge.

Installation of a modern sanitary equipment, although not requested by the institution's board of control, likely will be recommended by the house committee on Marquette prison, according to Representative Albert Reutter, Detroit, who with other members of the committee made a trip of inspection of the branch prison.

"We found the sanitary conditions at the prison to be very bad, due to lack of equipment," Mr. Reutter said, "and I believe that steps should be taken to remedy them."

SCHOOL REPORT DIST. 6

School report for month ending January 28, 1921.

Number of days taught 20.
 Total attendance 369.
 Average daily attendance 19.
 Number boys enrolled 9.
 Number girls enrolled 10.
 Total enrollment 19.

Those receiving certificates for being neither absent nor tardy for the month are: Hazel, Elmer, and Floyd Harpits, Donald Godfrey, Mildred and Lucile Flangsborg, Walter Studer, Orville Conly and Maurice Dillman.

Those receiving certificates for being neither absent nor tardy for three months are: Walter Studer, Lawrence and Maurice Dillman, Lucille and Mildred Flangsborg. Visitors during the month were: Hubert Church, Lorena and Loretta Culp, Mrs. Edd Conlin, Mrs. Carl Church and son and Mrs. Bird Clark and son. The Bailey school visited us Thursday afternoon and we had a spelling match. Hazel Harpist, our eighth grader, spelled both schools down.

The first grade have been studying about the Eskimos and we have Eskimo land on our sand table. We greatly appreciate having our schoolhouse papered and painted during Christmas vacation.

With our social money we have purchased a water fountain, white curtains and a flag rope. Visitors are always welcome. Edyth Burgess (Teacher).

WHEELER SCHOOL NOTES

The boys who attended the conference at Ithaca felt well repaid for their trip.

The Wheeler boys played basketball at Merrill. Wheeler was beaten in points but not in spirit. We expect a return game February 9, when a different result is expected.

Alton Allen is a new pupil in the high school.

The tenth grade had a test in history Monday.

The ninth grade will soon start to read "The Merchant of Venice," having just completed "The Lady of the Lake."

Miss Beulah and Rena Hill visited the intermediate room last Monday. Miss Boyer has read us the story "A struggle for a Fortune," which we enjoyed very much.

Several of the girls in the intermediate room are playing basketball.

The fifth grade wrote a test in arithmetic today.

The third grade is preparing note books of spelling and arithmetic which they will take home at the end of the month for parental inspection.

Bertha Aldrich is back in school after an absence of a month.

WRIGHT SCHOOL

Fire destroyed the farm home of Mrs. Simmons Sunday morning. The fire was first discovered about 8:00 o'clock, but had gained such a headway that it was impossible to extinguish the flames and the structure burned down, being a total loss.

Mrs. William Bartley spent last week with her sister in St. Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Chelbon have welcomed a baby boy at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Raycraft are the owners of a new Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Wiley spent the week end in Shepherd. About 75 friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Webb one night last week and gave Mr. Webb a jolly surprise. The evening was spent in dancing and card playing.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carpenter of Midland county spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Webb.

Mrs. Giles Isham and two children spent the week end with her daughter at Pompeii.

Clyde Webb of Detroit is visiting relatives here this week.

Mrs. Fred Johnson of Riverdale spent last Thursday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rockefeller.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself. Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

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H. M. Page and W. F. Markham

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